



WISCONSIN ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

ABOUT THE WAFP:

The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) is a statewide association of Family Medicine doctors established in 1948 to:

1. **Promote and maintain high professional and ethical standards in the practice of Family Medicine.**
2. **Encourage young people to prepare for active careers in Family Medicine.**
3. **Help provide continuing education to family physicians.**

The WAFP – a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians – represents over 2,900 members, making the WAFP the single largest physician specialty group in Wisconsin.

In addition, the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians Foundation supports many of our educational and research programs for medical students, including those which would reduce the shortage of primary care physicians in Wisconsin.



WAFP MISSION:

The mission of the WAFP is to promote excellence in health care and to improve the health of the people of Wisconsin through the advancement of the art and science of Family Medicine, the specialty of Family Medicine and the professional growth of Family Physicians.

We also strive to increase access to quality health care in Wisconsin through legislative advocacy and work to support fair and meaningful legislation concerning health care issues in our state.

ABOUT FAMILY MEDICINE:

Family Medicine is the medical specialty that provides continuing and comprehensive primary health care for individuals and families. Family Medicine integrates the biological, clinical and behavioral sciences, and its scope encompasses all ages, both sexes, each organ system and every disease entity.



Family Medicine includes health promotion, disease prevention, health maintenance, counseling, patient education, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses in a variety of health care settings.

Family physicians serve as the entry point for most of a patient's health care needs and more patients are seen by family doctors than any other specialty. Family physicians are advocates for patients in coordinating use of the entire health care system and are responsible for the patient's long-term care.

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2021-22 Wisconsin Legislative Session Priorities

1. **Maintain Physician-led Healthcare Team** - In recent legislative sessions, there have been attempts to expand scopes of practice for mid-level providers in order to provide more independence for those providers. The WAFP continues to oppose attempts to expand scope of practice of mid-level providers at the expense of eroding physician supervision and collaboration requirements.
2. **Medicaid Payment Parity** – Family medicine and primary care are the only entities charged with longitudinal continuity of care for the whole patient. Payment for primary care services should be at least equal to Medicare's payment rate for those services when provided by a primary care physician.
3. **School Vaccinations and Personal Conviction Exemption** – The increase in use of the personal conviction exemption in the school vaccination program has led to an overall drop in the percentage of students who meet the minimum immunization requirements. WAFP will continue advocating for increased vaccination rates among Wisconsin's students by removing the “personal conviction exemption” that allows parents to opt children out of receiving vaccinations for any reason but still maintain “medical exemptions” and “religious exemptions” in state law.
4. **Direct Primary Care** – Seek state statute clarity that direct primary agreements do are not health insurance policies.
5. **Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program** – Seek additional funding in the 2021-23 state budget for the WRPRAP program to ensure the expansion of residency opportunities at rural hospitals.
6. **Family Medicine Training** – Seek funding in the 2021-23 budget to support programs at the Medical College of Wisconsin to train medical students and residents in family medicine.
7. **Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine** – Support additional funding for the WARM program, which seeks to address rural physician shortages by training medical student committed to working in rural communities.
8. **Graduate Medical Education Grants** – Ask for the continuation and additional funds for the Graduate Medical Education Grants. The grants are a unique opportunity to partner with hospitals, health systems, and medical schools because public funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by those entities.
9. **Primary Care and Psychiatry Shortage Grant Program** – Ask for continued funding and promotion of the Primary Care and Psychiatry Shortage Grant program, which provides primary care physicians who work in healthcare shortage areas a grant for their willingness to practice in those areas.
10. **Telehealth Payment Parity** – Advocate for payment parity between telehealth and in-person patients services, regardless of payer source and services provided.